

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-17, and 21-28 are pending in the application after this amendment.

As a preliminary matter, a terminal disclaimer has not been filed herewith to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection as claims 1-4 were only provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Although applicants believe it will not be necessary, applicants would be willing to file a terminal disclaimer if this provisional rejection is maintained and finalized.

The Examiner has indicated that previously pending claims 5-6 and 15-16 included allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 5 therein, and have cancelled claim 7. Applicants have amended claim 6 so that it is in independent format (incorporating the subject matter of claims 1 and 6). Applicants have amended claim 11 to incorporate the elements of claim 15 therein, and have cancelled claim 15. Applicants have amended claim 16 so that it now depends on claim 15. The remaining claims depend from the independent claims and should now be allowable. Applicants have made these amendments for the purpose of furthering prosecution, but reserve the right to file continuation applications.

Incorporated herein (without repetition) are the specific recitation of the facts and the specific arguments found in previous papers.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the currently pending claims are patentable. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reexamine the application, to allow the claims, and to pass the application on promptly to issue.

Application No. 10/781,146
Amendment dated August 9, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 9, 2006

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2115 for any additional fees that may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Oster", written in black ink.

Karen Dana Oster
Reg. No. 37,621
Of Attorneys of Record
Tel: (503) 810-2560